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try,” Ali told *The Skanner*.

It was in Denver that she started having dinner parties with a diverse group of friends from across the globe.

As an already established filmmaker in India, where she was producing documentaries for TV, Ali got the idea to recreate those quirky

man – and often humorous side – of immigrant stories.

The light-hearted and relatable nuances of her subjects was intentional, said Ali. “I wanted it to be a fun project, and I didn’t want it to be so heavy that no one wanted to watch it.”

Indeed, her docuseries

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dinner conversations in front of the camera.

“I wanted to talk to people from different countries and hear what they had to say, and also emphasize the fact that immigrants make life more interesting,” said Ali.

After relocating to Portland in 2018, she got a small crew together – including Grammy-nominated sound engineer Noah Lifschey – and raised \$25,000 in one month on the crowd-funding platform Indiegogo.

Ali found her 13 interview subjects in cities across the U.S. – all of whom initially immigrated from places such as Mexico, Pakistan, Brazil, Ethiopia and France.

Through personal tales, “We the People” touches on themes of stereotypes, language barriers, identity and loss, while focusing on the hu-

man takes a more positive turn when exploring topical issues of immigration today, compared to the highly politicized and controversial practice of family separations that took place at U.S. borders last month.

The filmmaker added, however, that when she started her project the state of immigration policy was not as bleak as it looks today. Yet that’s not to say the conversations don’t get real.

“As I look at the episodes now, I notice there’s definitely a tendency to go towards the darker side,” Ali said. “The episodes start off light and they become dark. That’s not something I planned for, but I realize it has to be a part of the project.”

The first installment of “We the People” will be available on July 4, followed by a new episode each week.

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has worked night shifts as a pharmacy technician at Providence St. Vincent since 1994, and continues to do so while working three mornings a week at Dishman.

“I see firsthand at the hospital how much of [health conditions are] preventable,” Taylor.

In Taylor’s classes, she also sees individuals who are recovering from injuries, going through cancer treatment or living with chronic conditions such as arthritis or multiple sclerosis. Water aerobics students do not need to know how to swim, though lessons – both for groups and individuals – are available.

Taylor also said there’s a misconception that aqua fitness classes are for senior citizens, but she sees students of all ages, from 30 through their 90s, and classes are open to everyone regardless of disability status, race or gender.

“We come from a place of being non-judgmental, comfortable and safe,” Taylor said. Instructors also receive training in accommodating class members so they’re never asked to do an exercise that’s unsafe for them, and individuals can receive assistance getting into the pool if they have mobility challenges that might pose a barrier. Taylor also noted that individuals who

struggle to afford classes may be eligible for assistance through the Silver Sneakers program offered for seniors through some insurers, scholarships offered by Portland Parks & Recreation or discounted activity passes offered through The Miracles Club.

“I see firsthand at the hospital how much of [health conditions are] preventable

Students and fellow instructors coming out of a Monday-morning S.M.I.L.E. (Slower Movement Intensity Lowered Exercise) class – which ran parallel with a children’s summer swim class in the same pool – said Taylor has a particular knack for connecting with individual students and putting them at ease.

A student who asked to be referred to by her first name, Debbie, for this story said she began attending aqua aerobics classes in May 2016 after being diagnosed with cancer in her eyes.

“I feel like she saved my life,” Debbie told *The Skanner*. Another student said she was unsure she would ever walk

with her right leg again until she started doing water aerobics regularly.

Eileen McGurn, who has taught water aerobics in Portland since 1993 but was also a participant in Taylor’s Monday class, said students return for the sense of community as much as for the exercise.

“One of the wonderful things about Dishman is there’s a lot of ladies who have moved out of the neighborhoods, with gentrification, but come back for the class and still have access to community,” McGurn said.

“Personally, I began class following a debilitating fall that left my short, round self in a world of hurt, immobility and social isolation,” wrote Becky Underhill, who exercises in Taylor’s classes three days a week (and gets “pretty crabby” when Taylor is unable to teach and a substitute has to take

Norton, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 82. Norton knew Washington for seven years.

“He was a big personality. He always had a lot to say. He kind of had a larger-than-life personality. He was always very animated and exuberant. And if you ever worked with the guy or knew the guy, you would never forget him.”

Norton said Washington was with co-workers the day he was shot.

PSU students protested over the weekend over the university’s decision to arm its campus police. The university’s board of trustees voted in 2015 arm its police force over objections from students.

Information from: KOPB-FM, <http://news.opb.org>



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Worship in Pink

Legacy Emanuel hosted a clergy breakfast program for congregations of all faiths to learn about and support breast health awareness June 28 at the Legacy Emanuel Lorenzen Conference Center in north Portland. Pictured here are: Pastor J. Walter Hills, Jr. (back row, left) (New Hope MBC), Pastor J.W. Matt Hennessee (Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church), Pastor Crayton Jackson (Daniel Memorial COGIC), Pastor Lonnie Hosley Sr. (HeavenBound Deliverance Center), Pastor Craig L. Brown (St. Paul MBC); Pastor Lynn Smouse Lopez (front row, left), Pastor Kimberly K. Black (Ainsworth United Church of Christ), Pastor Marcus J. Shambry (Project Truth Community Church) and Pastor Terry McGraw Hill (Bethel A.M.E Church).

Shooting cont'd from pg 1

Washington, 45, who was Black, was shot to death by campus police outside a bar in downtown Portland late Friday. The Portland Police Bureau is investigating the shooting.

Witness Keyaira Smith told several news outlets that Washington was trying to break up a fight and a gun holstered on his hip fell out. He went to pick it up and was shot after someone yelled, “Gun!” Smith said. She had not responded to a request for an interview from The Associated Press.

A video clip shot by a bystander and obtained by KOIN-TV shows a black object in the pocket of a shorts-wearing man who is trying to break up a fight.

The man falls to the ground after pulling another man off his

friend as they exchange blows.

The camera jerks away from the action shortly after the fall and doesn’t show the shooting.

“If you ever worked with the guy or knew the guy, you would never forget him

Washington was a Navy veteran who had worked at the U.S. Postal Service since 1998, OPB reported. He was married and had three children and one grandchild.

“He loved those kids, he was crazy about them,” said David



PHOTO BY CHRISTEN MCCURDY

Students in a Slower Movement Intensity Lowered Exercise (SMILE) class at Matt Dishman Community Center get in a Monday-morning workout with coaching from Margarita Taylor.

over the class), in an email to The Skanner News. “Rita teased me out of my isolation and helped me minimize the effects of my injuries, in short order. I’m not alone in that experience.”

Kim Giroux, the recreation leader for water fitness, said Taylor is “very motivated by love for her students” and actively works to grow her skills. “This is about more than just exercise. It’s about community. It’s about love and mutual support of one another beyond fitness goals,” Giroux said.